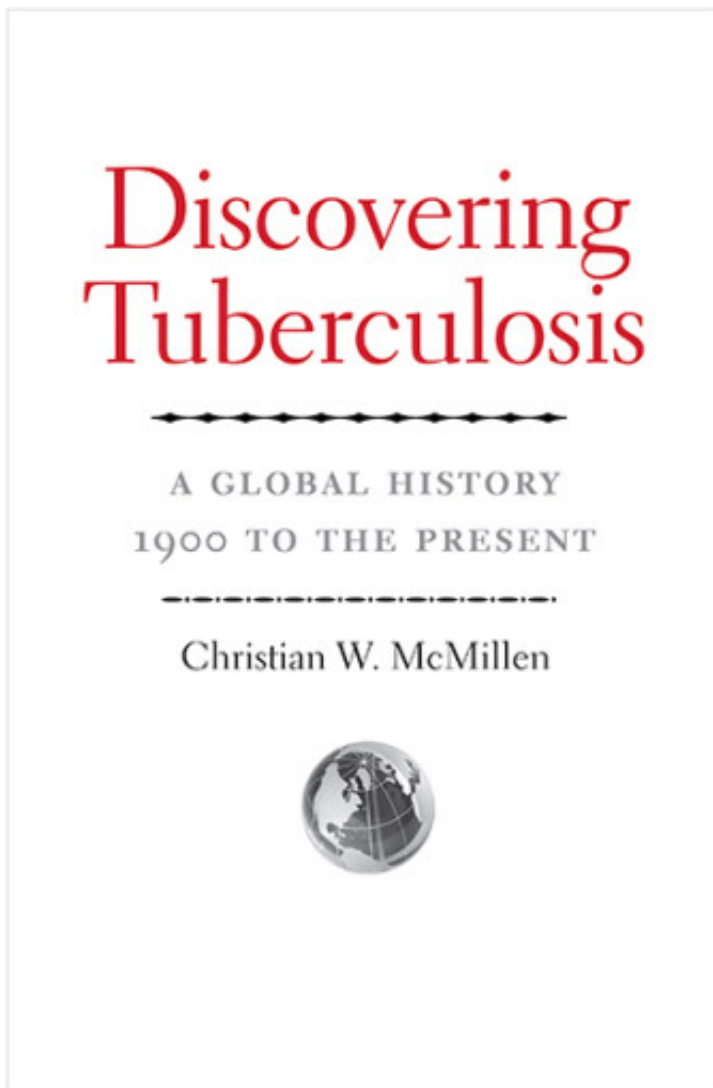


<http://somatosphere.net/2015/09/book-forum-christian-mcmillens-discovering-tuberculosis.html>

## Book Forum -- Christian McMillen's "Discovering Tuberculosis"

2015-09-04 10:07:56

By Todd Meyers



Christian McMillen's [Discovering Tuberculosis](#) is many things, but mostly it is an account of failure. The book is a story of disease control in the twentieth century that is anything but controlled. McMillen gives needed attention to problems of the past that find themselves – unexpectedly, dangerously – occupying our present moment (though it should be made

clear from the outset that McMillen's is not an account built on sweeping claims, easy prescriptions, or vitriol of a predictable political character). McMillen tells a story that is pointed and detailed, unrelenting and often exasperating, and yet surprisingly measured, not diffident but aware of the stakes of telling: "As we historians get closer and closer to the present we get nervous, because we inch closer and closer to no longer being historians" (224). McMillen pulls tuberculosis from the twentieth century into the present without sacrificing the fullness of its history.

We hope you enjoy the comments on Christian McMillen's *Discovering Tuberculosis* and his response.

**Comments on** [Christian McMillen's \*Discovering Tuberculosis: A Global History, 1900 to the Present\*](#) (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015):

[Tuberculosis and the Danger of Forgetting Past Failures](#)

[David Jones](#)

Harvard University

[Hope, Doubt, Paradox](#)

[Erin Koch](#)

University of Kentucky

[Unknowing the Old](#)

[Janina Kehr](#)

University of Zurich

[Global Health and Transnational History](#)

[Niels Brimnes](#)

Aarhus University

[Global Tuberculosis — Lessons Learned, Lessons Lost](#)

[Christoph Gradmann](#)

University of Oslo

[A Remembrance of People Lost: Epidemiology and History](#)

[Joanna Radin](#)

Yale University

**Response to comments:**

[Response](#)[Christian McMillen](#)

University of Virginia

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**AMA citation**

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**Harvard citation**

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